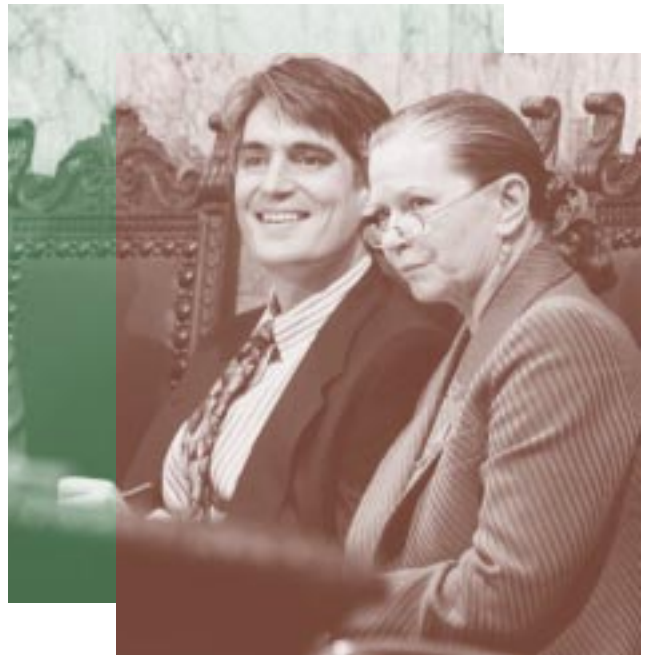


Co-Majority Leader***Rep. Mastin assumes new leadership position***

I was honored to be selected by my colleagues as Co-Majority Leader in the House of Representatives. This is the number-two leadership position in the House, behind the Speaker. As a key member of the House leadership team, the citizens I represent will have a seat at the table when it is time to make decisions regarding major policy proposals, in discussions with the governor's office and the Senate, and in the Rules Committee where we call up bills that will be scheduled for floor action.

I am excited about these new responsibilities and I'm pleased to have this chance to offer a stronger voice in the Legislature for our communities.



Rep. Mastin and Rep. Lynn Kessler of Hoquiam serve as Co-Majority Leaders in the House

Rep. Dave Mastin

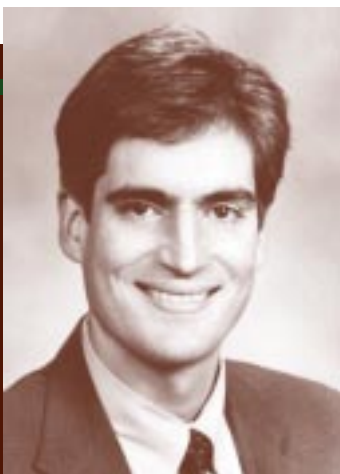
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**2001
Session
Report**

16th
Legislative
District

**Rep. Dave Mastin**
Co-Majority Leader

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Rep. Dave Mastin**2001 Session Report**

16th Legislative District

March 2001

Dear Friends,

Voters made history once again by electing an evenly divided House of Representatives, made up of 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats. The even split will create some unique challenges for lawmakers, but it will provide greater opportunities for reaching bipartisan solutions to the issues before us.

The biggest issue looming is the two-year operating budget, which is already showing a substantial deficit after voters in southeast Washington and throughout the state gave approval to more than \$800 million in new spending for teacher pay raises and education improvements. The challenge this session will be to reprioritize other state programs to free up money for the items voters asked us to fund.

A number of other issues are expected to be addressed this session, including long-term transportation planning, health care costs, criminal justice, natural resource management, and rising energy prices.

As always, I welcome your calls and letters. The 2001 session promises to be a very important and very challenging one, and I look forward to hearing your ideas and concerns. Thank you for the honor of representing you in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Dave Mastin

Dave Mastin
State Representative

State budget facing significant deficit

Lawmakers asked to do more with less

Voters from the 16th District and around the state approved two separate initiatives this year, which will require more than \$800 million in new spending for education.

Initiative 732 will provide automatic teacher pay increases while Initiative 728 will provide funds for classroom enhancements aimed at improving student achievement. Education is clearly an overwhelming priority for the citizens in our communities. I will work to find responsible spending reductions in other areas of government to ensure voters' wishes are met.

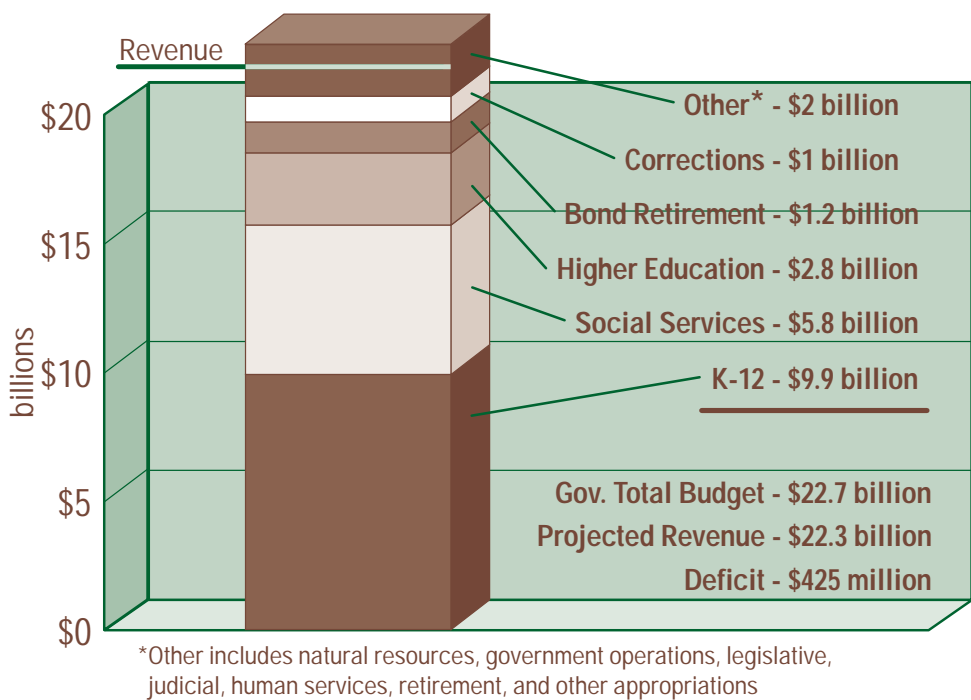
This will be a delicate balancing act for the Legislature. I'm concerned about the needs of higher education and local social

services, such as our rural hospitals and programs that provide assistance to citizens with developmental disabilities. I will be working to ensure that these important community resources are not severely affected.

The governor's budget proposal provides a starting point for lawmakers who will craft a two-year operating budget. The governor's plan supports many important programs and makes a valid effort at reducing costs in some other areas.

While it offers some room for agreement, my main concern with his plan is that it spends \$425 million **more** than available revenue over the next two years.

Governor's Budget Proposal



Transportation funding a blank slate

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation has recently completed two years of work looking into our state's transportation needs and funding options. The BRC report, with more than 40 recommendations, is now before the Legislature. The report includes efficiency measures and proposed tax increases to fund new road construction.

In the last four years, the Legislature has conducted an audit of the Department of Transportation. We were able to make some cuts in administrative costs and find efficiencies to get more money directly into road projects.

I believe we must continue to strive for efficiency and work to streamline the permitting process to avoid unnecessary costs and delays. I will also insist that any plan to raise additional revenue must be approved by the voters and must include a detailed construction plan so that taxpayers will know exactly what their money would be used for.

Sex predator housing will be reviewed

The Department of Social and Health Services has made, and will continue to make, decisions about where and how to locate houses for sex offenders. DSHS's decision-making is under serious scrutiny by lawmakers in the opening weeks of this session. The lack of public input in this selection process has been disturbing and is indicative of the haste in the decision-making process and the short-circuited approach used by DSHS in choosing the Walla Walla location.

Rep. Bill Grant recently organized a meeting here in Olympia between local citizens and the governor. Rep. Grant, Sen. Mike Hewitt and I, along with concerned citizens from Walla Walla, discussed our concerns about bringing this facility to our community and the process that was used to select this site. We want to make sure that DSHS follows the law and appropriate criteria in choosing a location for this halfway house.

Balance needed in water, natural resource policies

The management of our natural resources and protection of our environment should be based on sound science, local decision-making, and appropriate incentives. We do not need more top-down, one-size-fits-all regulations, which ignore the unique features and needs of our communities.



The Touchet River near Jettyjohn Road is one of several sites targeted by local planners with cooperation from landowners to improve habitat and water quality.

Our local salmon restoration programs have served as a successful model for other areas of the state. I was pleased that southeast Washington recently received more than \$1 million for nine local habitat restoration projects from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. These are projects being planned and completed by local citizens with the voluntary cooperation of the landowners.

Unfortunately, the Department of Ecology's central office in Olympia continues to push for expansive regulations on shorelines. The DOE is working to move forward with its shoreline regulations, despite concerns from many landowners.

We will continue to push for greater local control in state water policy in order to protect property rights and the interests of rural Washington.